

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 XMB-02 OPIC-03 JUSE-00 AF-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 /171 W

-----047730 161159Z /43

R 142129Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8994
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6642

GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, CO
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: GOC RESTRICTS
IMPORT OF US HEAVY TRUCKS

1. BOGOTA PRESS REPORTED ON JULY 11 STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF
COLOMBIAN FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE (INCOMEX) APPARENTLY
RESTRICTING IMPORTATION OF HEAVY TRUCKS FROM THE UNITED STATES.
GOC FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL DECIDED TO AUTHORIZE AGAIN IMPORTATION
OF HEAVY TRUCKS BUT ONLY FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES-FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY, FINLAND, SPAIN, VENEZUELA, PERU, AND SWEDEN.
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THE KEY FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHICH
NON-ANDEAN COUNTRIES MIGHT EXPORT TRUCKS TO COLOMBIA WAS THEIR
NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCES VIS-A-VIS COLOMBIA, THUS CONTINUING STATED
GOC POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE BILATERAL TRADE.

2. INCOMEX DEPUTY-DIRECTOR OF IMPORTATION PRIVATELY CONFIRMED
SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO COMATT BUT JUSTIFIED MEASURE ON
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GROUNDS THAT U.S. ALREADY HAS LARGE SHARE OF MARKET
BECAUSE OF CHRYSLER TRUCK ASSEMBLY OPERATION IN
COLOMBIA. HE NOTED THAT IMPORTS OF CHRYSLER PARTS
FOR ASSEMBLY NOT AFFECTED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT
THAT INCOMEX WOULD ISSUE IMPORT LICENSES FOR IMPORT OF,
FOR INSTANCE, MACK TRUCKS FROM MACK AFFILIATE IN
VENEZUELA AND THAT IMPORT OF FORD TRUCKS FROM U.S.

WOULD BE ALLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ITALY AND FRANCE ALSO NOT ALLOWED TO EXPORT COMPLETED TRUCKS FOR THE REASON THAT THEY ASSEMBLE IN COLOMBIA. ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL IN INCOMEX DISMISSED COMATT SUGGESTION THAT U.S. TRADE FIGURES SHOWED U.S. TRADE DEFICIT WITH COLOMBIA BECAUSE U.S. FIGURES NOT CONSISTENT WITH GOC STATS WHICH SHOW LARGE COLOMBIA DEFICIT. SAME OFFICIAL STATED COMPARISON OF FIGURES, WHICH EMBASSY HAS ADVOCATED FOR MONTHS, IMPOSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: IF CHRYSLER CONTINUES TO BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT PARTS FOR ASSEMBLY, U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE IMPORTANT SHARE OF MARKET. HOWEVER, NEW MEASURE COULD STIFLE POSSIBLE LARGER U.S. SHARE OF MARKET. POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTATION OF MACK TRUCKS FROM VENEZUELA NOT VIABLE ARGUMENT BECAUSE OF PRICE FACTORS.

4. EMBASSY HAS WRITTEN POLITE BUT FIRM LETTER TO INCOMEX REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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